

Manager's Message

By John Casper
Director, Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance



Jerry Glanville, former coach of the Houston Oilers had the quaint habit of leaving extra tickets at the box office for Elvis Presley, just in case the “king” showed up. Somebody tell Glanville to forget the foot-ball tickets, but that Elvis lives and has bigger things to do—like helping JSC’s Safety, Reliability & Quality Assurance Office push safety.

The occasion was the announcement of the office’s reorganization, and instead of a staid, somber, institutional approach, the event took on a party atmosphere complete with “SELVIS” (an appropriate JSC acronym for “Safety Elvis”), a lively “Safety Aires” backup group, and, of course, everybody’s green buddy, Seemore Safety. It was, in fact, a restructure *celebration*.

Who said work couldn’t be fun?

I was the proud host to some 500-plus employees at the Gilruth Center on March 2, to thank them for work well done and tell them how excited I was to launch our new organization. SR&QA is one of the major team players in the JSC family, and a major priority is to recognize the contributions of those employees who are helping SR&QA become one of the most sought-after offices at the center.

Following an opening in which Safety Elvis, with trademark sideburns, dark glasses, and in an eye-popping green spangled costume, crooned special safety lyrics set to vintage Presley tunes, the audience was reassured that Seemore Safety has not been replaced by Safety Elvis, but the two have teamed up to be our ambassadors of safety at JSC.

One of my primary goals since joining SR&QA has been to ensure that everyone on the team understands who our customers are and how well we meet their requirements. Our first step was to develop a strategic plan identifying who we supported, such as space shuttle, space station and the center director. Our new organization is customer-focused, to help us do a better job of accomplishing SR&QA’s purpose—to assure successful space flight and promote a safe and healthy work environment. I’m pleased that we’ve been receiving positive feedback from our customers that our people are responsive and adding value.

Then, Bill Readdy of the Shuttle Program Development Office, talked about the SR&QA restructure, thanked the employees for doing an outstanding job and spoke optimistically of the new beginning.

This reorganization has been a somewhat involved process and, not surprisingly, the subject of many rumors. So the “Not-quite-ready-for-prime-time players,” from among the SR&QA Office, combined laughs with substance in a humorous rendition of how the whole reorganization came about.

The process we followed wasn’t as comical, but we do think it was very effective. Rich Dinkel and I picked a team of our future leaders, in whom we have a lot of confidence. The team also included contractors, branch chiefs, and a special panel who talked to customers along the way.

We wanted to avoid the pitfalls of past reorganizations, which had taken as long as two years. One additional caveat we gave the team was that none of them knew which organization they would be leading. This allowed them to focus on developing the best overall plan without building and protecting their own turf. We’re extremely proud of the end product. We realized there were many ways to distribute our functions across the organization, and we believe this new organization will be the bridge to carry SR&QA into the 21st Century.

The new SR&QA structure includes the Space Shuttle Division with Mark Erminger as chief and Scott Seyl, assistant; the Space Station Division with Dave Thelen as chief and Bob Alexander, assistant; the Technology Division with Mark Himmel as chief and George Jarrell, assistant; the Occupational Safety & Institutional Assurance Division with Stacey Nakamura as chief and Joe Ripma, assistant; the Management Integration Office with Larry Neu as management integration officer; and the ISS Independent Assessment with Hugh Baker as acting manager.

Our goal for this celebration was for our employees to leave with the feeling that management has the deep-rooted goal of making SR&QA work, not for the few, but for everyone at the center, the employees, and, most important of all, the future of the space program.

Zelon to lead Public Affairs; Ward moves to Abbey’s staff

Barbara Zelon will be joining JSC as director of the Public Affairs Office next month.

Zelon brings to the center more than 20 years of experience in positions of increasing responsibility in the communications, public affairs and advertising fields. Most recently, she was director of communications and public relations for United Space Alliance.

Zelon earned a bachelor of arts degree in communications/advertising and has extensive experience in media, government, and community relations as well as expertise in marketing, outreach, and educational programs. The appointment is effective April 6.

Douglas K. Ward, who has served as director of Public Affairs since January 1997, will join JSC Director

George Abbey’s staff as a special assistant until his planned retirement at the end of the year.

Ward will work with the JSC senior staff to coordinate public appearances and media events surrounding this year’s highly visible STS-95 mission with Sen. John Glenn and the STS-93 mission commanded by Eileen Collins and enhancing astronaut appearance effectiveness.

National Space Society hosts viewing party

The Clear Lake area chapter of the National Space Society is planning a party to watch the premier episode of Tom Hanks’ “From Earth to the Moon”—the new Home Box Office miniseries.

Veteran Apollo flight controllers are expected to join National Space Society members in watching the show from 6-9:30 p.m. Sunday, April 5 (the show starts at 7 p.m.) on four big screens at Damon’s Sports Bar

at the Hobby Airport Radisson hotel. The Radisson Hotel is at 9100 Gulf Freeway.

Free food and soft drinks, as well as a free viewers’ guide prepared by the National Space Society and Boeing will be distributed. Door prizes, including maps of the Moon showing the Apollo landing sites, will be awarded. The bar is open to the public, and children may attend if accompanied by a responsible adult.

The National Space Society, founded in 1974, is an independent, nonprofit space advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its 23,000 members and 90 chapters around the world actively promote a space-faring civilization. An interactive viewers guide to the HBO miniseries is available at <http://www.nss.org/apollo>. For more information, call Murray Clark, chapter president, at 367-2227.

Restored leave from furlough needs to be used

JSC’s Business Management Directorate reports that, as a result of the 1995 furlough, many employees have restored annual leave that must be taken before Jan. 2, 1999.

Restored annual leave expires two years after the date of restoration; it cannot be reinstated or used after that date. There are no exceptions.

Employees who lost leave in 1996 and had it restored in 1997 must use it by Jan. 1, 2000. Those who lost leave in 1997 and had it restored in 1998 must use it by Jan. 13, 2001.

Employees who have questions regarding their restored annual leave balance and applicable expiration dates should call the Payroll Office at x34832.

Earth Day softball tournament set

Registration is under way for the JSC Earth Day softball tournaments to be played April 18 at the Gilruth softball fields. Men’s C and men’s D round robin divisions will be held.

Earth Day T-Shirts and Moody Gardens passes will be awarded for first place winners in each division.

The registration fee is \$100 per team or \$60 and a 5-gallon or larger potted tree. To register, submit roster form and entry fee to Gilruth Center by April 10. The contest is limited to the first eight teams to register. For more information, call x33345.

People on the Move

Human Resources reports the following personnel changes as of March 14:

Key Management Assignments

Jim Johnston was selected as chief, Test Branch, Structures and Mechanics Division, Engineering Directorate.

Ken Wong was selected as chief, Structural Mechanical Design and Analysis Branch, Structures and Mechanics Division, Engineering Directorate.

Additions to the Workforce

James Lucero joins the Administration Office at the White Sands Test Facility as a program analyst.

Promotions

Caroline Root was selected as a contracting officer the Engineering Business Management Office.

Vicki Lounge was selected as an administrative officer in the Aircraft Operations Division in the Flight Crew Operations Directorate.

Debbie Schaller was selected as an administrative officer in the Space Shuttle Program Office.

Reassignments Between Directorates

Claudia Pruneda moves from the Space Shuttle Program Office to the Office of the Associate Director.

Kyle Fairchild moves from the Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office to the Mission Operations Directorate.

Rhonda Hyland moves from the Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office to the Engineering Directorate.

Resignations

Amy Black of the Human Resources Office.

Becky Roach of the Business Management Directorate.

Bonnie Black of the Engineering Directorate.

Beatrice Low of the Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Office.

Luis Salomes of the International Space Station Program Office.

Dates & Data

April 1
Spaceland Toastmasters meet: The Spaceland Toastmasters will meet at 7 a.m. April 1 at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For details, call George Salazar at x30162.

Communicators meet: The Clear Lake Communicators will meet at 11:30 a.m. April 1. For information and location, contact Henry Duke at 280-4403 or Melissa Sommers at 332-0698.

Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters will meet at 11:30 a.m. April 1 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For details, call Chuck Kubricht at 282-3908 or Brian Collins at x35190.

Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomy Seminar will meet at noon April 1 in Bldg. 31, Rm. 129. An open discussion meeting is planned. For more information, call Al Jackson at x35037.

Warning System Test: The sitewide Employee Warning System will perform its monthly audio test at noon April 1. For more information, call Bob Gaffney at x34249.

April 3
Star Party: Moody Gardens and the JSC Astronomical Society are sponsoring a star party 7 p.m. April 3 at the Moody Gardens Discovery Pyramid. Numerous telescopes will be set up for viewing. The star party is open free of charge to the public. Rain date is April 4.

April 5
HBO Party: The Clear Lake Chapter of the National Space Society is sponsoring a HBO “From the Earth to the Moon” party at 6 p.m. April 5 at Damon’s in the Radisson Hotel. The party celebrates the debut of Tom Hank’s miniseries “From the Earth to the Moon” exploring America’s Apollo space program. Four big-screen televisions will be set up for the event. The party is free of charge and open to the public.

April 6
NSBE meets: The National Society of Black Engineers will meet at 6:30 p.m. April 6 at the School of Technology, Rm. 316, at Texas

Southern University. For details, call Sabra Crawford at 333-7028.

April 7
NPMA meets: The National Property Management Association will meet at 5 p.m. April 7 at Robinette and Doyle Caterers, 216 Kirby in Seabrook. Dinner costs \$14. For details call Sina Hawsey at x36582.

Aero club meets: The Bay Area Aero Club will meet at 7 p.m. April 7 at the Houston Gulf Airport clubhouse at 2750 FM 1266 in League City. For details call Larry Hendrickson at x32050.

April 8
Spaceland Toastmasters meet: The Spaceland Toastmasters will meet at 7 a.m. April 8 at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For details, call George Salazar at x30162.

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PSI meets: The Clear Lake/NASA Chapter of Professional Secretaries International will meet at 5:30 p.m. April 8. For information and location, call Elaine Kemp at x30556.

April 9
SSQ meets: The Society for Software Quality will meet at 6:45 p.m. April 9 at the Holiday Inn on NASA Rd. 1. Registration and social begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. The speaker is Sam Boyd, program manager for the JSC safety, reliability and quality assurance contract. The topic will be the Texas Quality Award process, the profiles of past

winners and the values of organizational implementation of principles of the award process.

Airplane club: The MSC Radio Control Airplane Club will meet at 7 p.m. April 9 in the Clear Lake Park building. For details, call Bill Langdoc at x35970.

April 10
Space society meets: The Clear Lake chapter of the National Space Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. April 10 at the Radisson Hotel, 9100 Gulf Fwy. in the Deer Park room. Mark Pestana, manager of Earth and space sciences in the space station payloads office, will speak on “Space Station Lifeboats: Soyuz and Crew Return.” For details, call Murray Clark at 367-2227.

Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. April 10 at the Center for Advanced Space Studies, 3600 Bay Area Blvd. Rita Karl from the Moody Gardens Discovery Pyramid, will speak on “A Layman’s Look at the Hubble Telescope”. For more information, call Chuck Shaw at x35416.